

Message Text

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ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 SS-15 NSC-05

INR-07 SP-02 INRE-00 /031 W

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O 230014Z JAN 76 ZFF-4

FM USDEL SECRETARY IN MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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FOR S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SECVISIT - TOAST AT LUNCHEON JANUARY 22, 1976

FOR YOUR INFORMATION, NOT REPEAT NOT FOR RELEASE, IS
TRANSCRIBED TEXT OF SECRETARY'S TOAST
DELIVERED AT LUNCHEON IN HIS HONOR HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR
JANUARY 22.

BEGIN TEXT: MR. FOREIGN MINISTER, IT IS A GREAT
PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU HERE AGAIN IN OUR EMBASSY AT ONE
OF OUR FREQUENT MEETINGS. THE REGULAR MEETINGS AT HIGH
LEVELS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE SOVIET UNION HAVE BECOME
SO FREQUENT THAT WE TAKE THEM FOR GRANTED. BUT IT IS
IMPORTANT TO REMIND OURSELVES WHAT IT WAS LIKE DURING
PERIODS OF TENSION WHEN EACH COUNTRY SOUGHT ITS MAXIMUM
ADVANTAGE, AND WHEN OUR RELATIONS WERE CHARACTERIZED BY
VERY FREQUENT CONFRONTATIONS. THE UNITED STATES AND THE
SOVIET UNION MUST NEVER FORGET THAT, POSSESSING VAST
NUCLEAR ARSENALS AS THEY NOW DO, THE TRADITIONAL FOREIGN
POLICY OF THE PERIOD PRIOR TO THE SECOND WORLD WAR IS
TOO DANGEROUS FOR THEIR PEOPLES AND A POTENTIAL
CATASTROPHE FOR MANKIND. AND THEY HAVE A VERY PARTICULAR
OBLIGATION. IT HAS NEVER BEFORE HAPPENED IN HISTORY THAT
ADDITIONAL INCREMENTS OF MILITARY POWER WERE NOT POLITICALLY
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USEFUL. HOWEVER, WE ARE NOW REACHING A POINT WHERE THE

INCREMENTS OF POWER CANNOT BE USED POLITICALLY OR MILITARILY, BUT WHERE, IF THE RACE CONTINUES, THE RESULTING TEMPTATIONS AND INSTABILITIES CAN PRESENT A VERY GREAT THREAT TO ALL MANKIND. SO OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE A VERY GRAVE RESPONSIBILITY TO BRING THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE UNDER CONTROL. FIRST TO PUT A CEILING ON IT, AND THEN TO REDUCE THE LEVELS OF NUCLEAR ARSENALS SO THAT WE MAY AVOID THE KIND OF CATASTROPHE THAT COULD BEFALL MANKIND IF WE ARE NOT EQUAL TO OUR OBLIGATIONS.

I BELIEVE THAT BOTH DELEGATIONS IN THE LAST TWO DAYS HAVE WORKED SERIOUSLY TO FIND A NEW BASIS FOR AGREEMENT. I BELIEVE THAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE. BUT PROGRESS REMAINS TO BE MADE, AND WE CANNOT GIVE UP ON THIS EFFORT. WE WILL CONTINUE OUR DISCUSSIONS, AND IF WE CONTINUE IN THE SPIRIT OF OUR PREVIOUS DELIBERATIONS, I AM OPTIMISTIC THAT FURTHER PROGRESS CAN BE MADE. AS THIS PERIOD OF DISCUSSION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES CONTINUES THERE EXIST MANY TEMPTATIONS WITHIN BOTH OUR COUNTRIES. THERE EXISTS THE TEMPTATION OF TAKING THE CURRENT CONDITION FOR GRANTED AND AT THE SAME TIME ATTEMPTING TO EXPLOIT IT FOR THIS OR THAT PURPOSE IN OUR PUBLIC DEBATE. OUR ADMINISTRATION IS DEDICATED TO THE PROPOSITION THAT THE PEACE OF THE WORLD DEPENDS ON THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, AND WE WILL PERSEVERE IN THESE EFFORTS UNTIL A MORE STABLE CONDITION IS ACHIEVED.

AT THE SAME TIME, INSTABILITIES IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD CAN CREATE TEMPTATIONS FOR THE GAINING OF UNILATERAL ADVANTAGES. THAT, TOO, IS A DANGER TO WORLD PEACE AND THAT, TOO, WILL LEAD TO FURTHER INSTABILITIES. AND JUST AS WE WILL RESIST THOSE WITHIN OUR OWN COUNTRY WHO WANT TO SACRIFICE THE GAINS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE IN OUR RELATIONS, SO WILL WE RESIST EFFORTS ABROAD TO ACHIEVE UNILATERAL GAINS, FROM WHATEVER QUARTER.

THIS SPIRIT OF MUTUAL RESTRAINT BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE, AND THE SPIRIT OF A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY WE HAVE NOT ONLY TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESENT BUT TO THE FUTURE, MUST REST ON THE AWARENESS THAT OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE THE CAPABILITY OF LEADING MANKIND TO DISASTER OR LEADING MANKIND TO A BETTER FUTURE. IN THIS SPIRIT WE CONDUCT OUR DISCUSSIONS HERE. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE HOSPITALITY THAT HAS BEEN SHOWN TO US. WE RESPECT YOUR CONCERNS. AND WE HOPE THAT WE CAN LOOK BACK ON THIS VISIT, AS ON MANY PREVIOUS VISITS, AS ONE FURTHER STEP TOWARDS

A BETTER WORLD, AND A SIGNIFICANT STEP TOWARD
IMPROVING CONTROL OF NUCLEAR ARMS.

I WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE A TOAST TO THE FOREIGN
MINISTER, TO HIS COLLEAGUES, AND TO FRIENDSHIP
BETWEEN THE SOVIET AND AMERICAN PEOPLES.
KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECTO, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SECTO01069
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760025-0399
From: SECRETARY MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760127/aaaaaxoy.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PRS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <13 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECVISIT - TOAST AT LUNCHEON JANUARY 22, 1976 FOR YOUR INFORMATION, NOT REPEAT NOT FOR RELEASE, IS
TAGS: OVIP, US, UR, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006